

Session 1: Day 1

The Importance of a Biblical Worldview

We live in an increasingly chaotic world.

It seems as if everything we have believed about Christianity is being attacked today. And those of us sitting in the pews are crying out for answers that will help us make sense of life and rise above the confusion.

The good news is that our God does not want His children to live in confusion or fear, thus He has provided the answers that can bring clarity to our lives in His personal diary to us, the Bible.



To some who read this, there most assuredly are doubts regarding the above statement, and this is understandable. We live in a battlefield of ideas and it is difficult to know which ideas are true and trustworthy and which are not. The purpose of this series is to confront those ideas head-on as we compare and contrast God's IDEAS against those of the opposing worldviews of today. In each the 12 categories of life that we investigate, you will find:

1. *A summary of what the God of the Bible promises as blessings to those who follow His precepts, as well as the curses that must come to those who choose to live by another worldview.*
2. *A summary of the various opposing worldviews that permeate our world.*

As we do so, we will reveal the main points of difference between each. We will weigh each of these worldviews using history, logic, and reality-based statistical examples of the results or consequences of following each worldview. We encourage everyone to not blindly trust our interpretations, but to examine for yourselves if the conclusions we are drawing from the evidences are true. This course is designed to develop critical thinkers.

A fundamental principle in this series is that **laws are necessary for life**.

Without law there is chaos. Simply consider for a moment the results if all traffic signals stopped working at rush hour!

Science has revealed over 20 Natural (physical) laws that govern the universe, and all are finely tuned to allow for life. If just one law was to go out of tune by even the tiniest fraction, all the other laws would collapse. The result would be no life!

This is a fact that cannot be ignored without consequences. Furthermore, in these videos we will demonstrate that the physical laws enforce the moral laws presented in the Bible.

This leads to the logical conclusion that there are universal moral laws, as well as universal physical laws; and the moral laws are even more consequential when disregarded and disobeyed.



Therefore, whatever worldview one chooses to embrace must take into consideration the fixed laws that govern life. To ignore the power and consequence of the universal physical and moral laws is to live in a fantasy world outside of reality.

Our claim is that the Bible contains the Moral Laws that, when obeyed, give life.



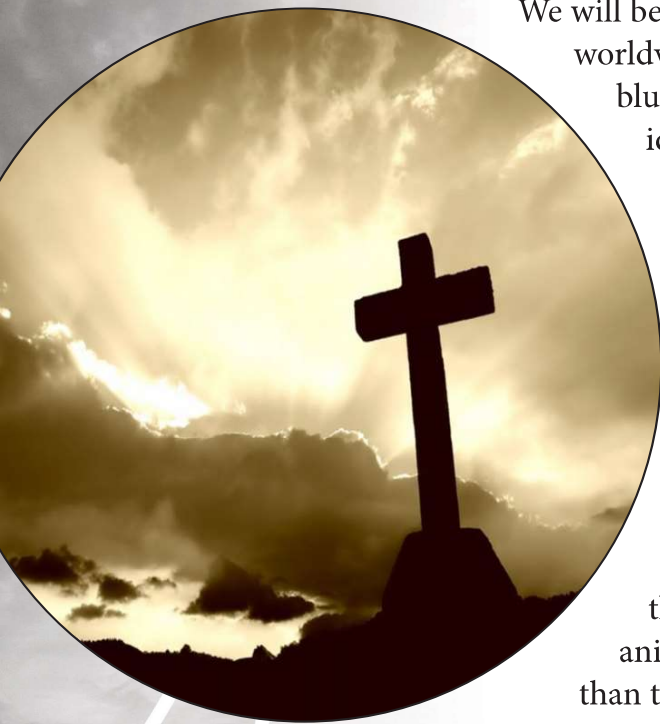
Watch the first video called "Introduction" and then continue to read below.

What is a Worldview, and Why Does It Matter?



Read the following section before watching the first video of session 1.

In this first video, you will clearly see that all worldviews (and the cultures that are framed by those worldviews) are not the same. Worldviews are composed of ideas; and ideas - when embraced - will lead to moral choices that will have consequences, either positive or negative.



We will begin by displaying the Biblical blueprint for a successful worldview, followed by examples of what happens when that blueprint is lived out in a nation. We will then define the ideas that make up the basic worldview found in America today, along with the results that have proceeded from those ideas.

Over the last 5 decades, Christianity has taken a beating in the western world. Our faith and our God have been accused of being the source of all the world's problems. This lie has been repeated for so long without opposition in our state education system and in the media that most people believe it to be true. After watching this video, we are confident that both Christians and unbelievers will view Christianity's influence over our world in a much different light than that which the world has painted it to be!

As the saying goes, we can choose our own opinions but we can't choose our own facts. Living in a fantasy world cannot be sustained. Sooner or later the illusion will be exposed and only the consequences will remain. It is much wiser to choose carefully those ideas we will build our life upon... and live in reality.

YOUR worldview matters!



Watch the video called "What is a Worldview" part 1 up to the title "Remembering Christianity's Proud Heritage" (8 min, 51 second mark). Observe only. Don't try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you have viewed the video, consider/discuss the following questions.

A. In the introduction, we spoke about the battle of ideas. Name at least 3 ideas that are being fought in the culture around you and how those ideas might affect your life.

Here are some examples:

1. "There is no such thing as Absolute truth" OR "Nothing is absolutely right or wrong" OR _____

"Boys and Girls are the same" /or "homosexuality is good - even exemplary"/ or "you can choose to
to be whatever sex you want to be depending upon how YOU feel."

2. "Capitalism is bad. Socialism is good." _____

3. "All cultures are the same." _____

"All religions lead to the same God" _____

B. It was stated that there are both physical and spiritual (moral) laws that govern the universe, and that it is unwise to blatantly disregard or disobey universal laws.

1. Would you jump off a 20-story building just for the kicks? _____

These are open-ended questions meant to generate discussion

Why not? _____

2. What physical law would come into play in this situation?

Gravity _____



3. Name 2 traffic laws and the consequences that might come if you disobeyed those laws:

These are open-ended questions meant to generate discussion

a. _____

b. _____

4. What does it mean to fear God? (1) Fear the CONSEQUENCES that must follow when we disobey His laws - either by rebellion or ignorance. (2) To obey God not because we fear Him, but because we love Him and want to please Him.

5. Why do you think God gave us scriptural (moral) laws and what would happen if we didn't have them? To give us safe boundaries where we can be free to live to the fullest and not fear consequences of stepping away from God's protective arms. Without boundaries - like barriers at the side of a cliff - we can fall or fail.

6. From the Deuteronomy passage in the video, what are the 4 lessons that are important for us to apply if we are to live by a Biblical worldview?

1. KNOW ___ God's laws and principles for life

2. OBEY ___ those laws and principles

3. Remember ___ ___ ___ the history of God's working with mankind

4. Teach ___ ___ our children

Session 1: Day 2

Remembering Christianity's Proud Heritage



Watch part 1 again up to the title "Remembering Christianity's Proud Heritage" (8 min, 51 second mark). You may take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you've viewed the video, answer the following questions:

1. Read Hosea, chapter 4. List what you think are similarities between Israel in Hosea's time and America today. (here are some examples ... but there are more)

- Ans: Truth, mercy, & Godly knowledge are greatly missing (v1).
- We're breaking all Godly restraints and violent crime has skyrocketed (v2).
- The people are being destroyed because of their ignorance and lack of Godly education (v6).
- We have forgotten the Law of God (v6).
- We are worshipping idols: ourselves, our cars and houses, Hollywood or Music stars, etc.

2. In Hosea 4:6, what does God say the nation is lacking? Knowledge - specifically the knowledge of God

What have they rejected and/or ignored? The Law of God

3. Read Deuteronomy 4:1-18. List several blessings you can find that God promised for Israel if they would simply hear (listen to and obey) His words?

- V1 -You will live (prosper).
- You will possess the land.
- V3- You will be preserved/protected when judgment comes to others.
- V6- Other nations will glorify God and honor you.

- _____
- _____

4. From that same passage, name at least 6 commands that God says either to do or not to do.

- V1-Listen to God's Word and obey (observe).

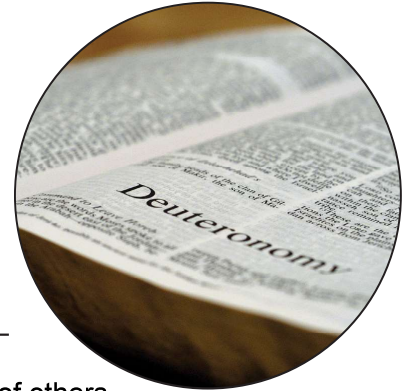
- Go in and possess the land.

- V2- Do not add or subtract from His Word.

- V3- Be careful to observe the Laws. V5- Live out your faith in front of others.

- V9- Watch yourself that you don't forget what you have seen and learned.

- V10- Teach them to your children and grandchildren.
V15-18- Do not worship idols.



Application Question: How might your commitment to obey the commands listed above affect your life today as well as in the future?

(Examples) God will be with me. God promises great success in all I do. I will be a blessing to others. I will be given knowledge and wisdom.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 1, Days 1-2.

Hosea 4:6
John 8:32
2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Deuteronomy 4:1-10
Psalm 111:10
Matthew 24:35

Session 1: Day 3

Remembering Christianity's Proud Heritage



Watch part 1 beginning at the title “Remembering Christianity’s Proud Heritage” (8 min, 51 second mark) and continue to the end of Part 1. Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, discuss and answer the following questions:

1. Regarding the section “How Christianity Changed the World”, what did you learn that you were not aware of before? Explain what the world might look like without just one of those changes.

These questions are open for personal responses



2. Which of the changes/new ideas mentioned surprised you?

These are open-ended questions meant to generate discussion



Session 1: Day 4

The Effects of Christianity on History



Watch part 1 beginning at the title “Remembering Christianity’s Proud Heritage” (8 min, 51 second mark) and continue to the end of Part 1. You may take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, discuss and answer the following questions:

1. Name at least 7 of the changes Christianity has been responsible for (from the video).

- Sanctity of Marriage;

- Sanctity of Life;

- Womens’ freedom and dignity;

- Education for all;

- Charity and compassion;

- Hospitals;

- Modern science;

- abolition of slavery...

- _____



2. What does this say to you about the value of Christianity compared to other faiths?

3. Why do you think Christianity has been so influential for the good?

Because that is who our God is: He is good – always.



There is no good outside of Him. Christ put others before himself and



set the example of a life of service. His example shows the highest

moral standards. His standards are clear, and if everyone lived by them

this would be a perfect world.

4. God has chosen you for a special purpose. Do you remember what it is?

“We are the keepers of the greatest treasure of all time.”

What is the treasure and what are we supposed to do with it? Bible. Live by it. Help others

with it. Share it with others.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 1, Days 3-4.

Matthew 12:14

Matthew 25:36

Genesis 1:1-31

Galatians 3:28

Luke 12:48

Hebrews 11:6

Phillipians 1:6

Session 1: Day 5

The 5,000 Year Leap



Watch part 2 through the segment called “The 5,000 Year Leap.” Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, discuss and answer the following questions:

1. How did the invention of the Gutenberg Press change history?

It made it possible to duplicate books in large quantities inexpensively and quickly. It allowed the Bible

to be printed in such quantities that even peasants could get their own copies , and many began

to learn to read by it. Literacy skyrocketed.

2. Have you ever thought about these radical advances that America brought to the world in such a short time, and what impression did this segment make upon your view of Christianity’s role in America’s prosperity?

(Personal responses)

2. How does this put in perspective the importance of knowing history?

Knowing that the Bible was the first book printed on Gutenberg's press and that the common people learned to read by it is a huge fact. Christianity is responsible for this.

We can be deceived into believing in ideas based upon untrue accounts of history by biased professors with an agenda to tear down our faith; i.e., when they make statements such as: the "Founders were all

deists and atheists"; or "Christianity is the cause of all the great wars in history"

3. The average lifespan in the 1600s was less than 40 years (closer to 30). What difference would that make in the priority of your spiritual life if this was true today?

(Personal responses)



Session 1: Day 6

The 5,000 Year Leap



Watch the segment “The 5,000 Year Leap” again. Take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. List as many reasons as you can for why America prospered so greatly and so quickly compared to all other nations in history.

The founders committed themselves to living under the Laws of God – which guarantee “success in all you do” when we obey. (Josh 1:8).

They were free, so their creativity and work ethic combined to enrich others.

They weren’t forced be responsible to work for tyrants.

Their ability to be personally responsible gave them upward mobility

2. The word “freedom” was emphasized greatly in this section. What was this freedom

based on? God created man to be free Freedom to do what? Pursue your dreams and live your life as you please - as long as you obey God’s moral laws.

- Freedom for the Individual
- Freedom of Worship
- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom to pursue one’s dreams
- Freedom to pursue the career of your choice

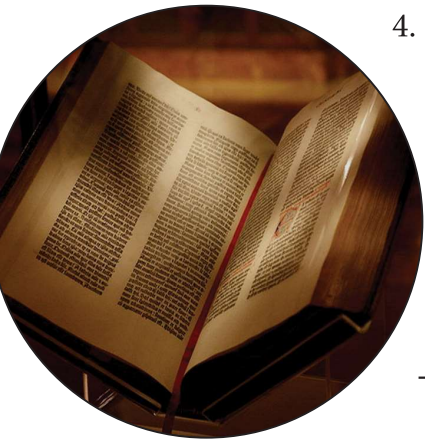
- Freedom to Create _____ .
- Freedom to carve out a life _____ for yourself and those you love.
- Freedom to Think _____ for yourself and make your own decisions on how to live your life.

3. What makes the foundation of America different than any other country in history?

We were founded upon the fundamental principle that all rights come from God alone. God (of the Bible) is

_____ the author of ALL laws, and man's laws are to reinforce God's laws only. Man cannot create a law

_____ that contradicts God's laws. God made man to be free and personally responsible to God and man.



4. The founding fathers of America view the world and every part of life through the lens of the Bible _____ .

5. Can we lose our freedom? Yes _____ How?

_____ By becoming compacent (lazy) in our pursuit of God and in our obedience to His Word.

6. How or why might those freedoms lead to prosperity in a Christian nation, but not in an atheistic nation?

_____ When we are free, we can aim to do whatever we love and are naturally gifted to do, and our

_____ creativity will be allowed to flourish - bringing blessings to others. We are much happier when our lives

_____ are not controlled. But in an atheistic country, people are controlled by those in power. They are told what

_____ occupations they can obtain, and they're not able to pursue their dreams because they are not free; therefore there is no incentive for people to work harder than others because most of what they earn can be taken from them at the whim of the leaders.

Without God's moral laws, freedom will be abused due to man's sinful heart

7. Do you think that we still enjoy today the same level of freedom that early Americans did? NO What (if anything) has changed?

(Depending upon your knowledge of past history and current events, you may or may not have an answer to this question.)

(Personal responses, but here are some examples:) We're over-taxed and under-represented.

Christians are now ridiculed and persecuted for their faith in the media, the schools, and the workplace.

We cannot say or do what we once were so free to say and do. Because of lawless politicians

and judges, stealing, lying and violence are rampant – which deprives everyone of freedom



8. The blessings of God come with responsibilities which are:

- Educate ourselves
- And Educate the next generation because "My people perish from lack of knowledge."



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 1, Days 5-7.

Hosea 4:6

Deuteronomy 4:9

Session 1: Day 7

The Culture Wars



Watch part 2 following the segment titled “The 5,000 Year Leap”; and watch until the title “What is a Worldview” (about 12min, 30 seconds after the conclusion of “The 5,000 Year Leap”). Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. What is a “Culture War” as described by Dr. Kenyn Cureton?

A war against Christian values and against God Himself

2. What are the consequences of “dualism,” the separation of every aspect of our lives as sacred OR secular?

We learn to divide what is "sacred" - or religious - from what is secular - or "of the world"; therefore, many claim to be Christian, but they live their lives no different than those who have no religion.

3. Do you agree with the statement “It is a foundational biblical truth that God expects us to join Him on His mission to redeem and transform our lost world?”

Why or why not?

(Personal responses)



4. What do you think the terms mean when Jesus says we are the “salt of the earth; the light of the world”?

(Personal responses) Hints for answers: Salt is a preservative. It helps bring out flavors. It heals/disinfects.

Light illuminates a room and dispels darkness. Light is analogous to truth and knowledge. Lights in dark places keep us from stumbling. Light helps us see clearer.

5. Do you think the section on “the culture wars” was in line with what you are seeing today in society? How does this information help to clarify the reasons for the chaos in the world today?

(Personal responses)



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 1, Day 7.

Matthew 5:13-14

2 Timothy 3:1-3

Revelation 3:15-16

Session 1: Day 8

The Culture Wars



Watch part 2 again, following the segment titled “The 5,000 Year Leap”; and watch until the title “What is a Worldview”. Take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. Name at least 4 areas of life where Christianity is being attacked today:

Our Christian heritage is being re-written out of history.

Evolution teaching has pushed God’s creation account out of the schools.

We are being forced to violate our conscience regarding the sanctity of life and the belief that marriage

is to be only between a man and a wife. Our freedom of speech is rapidly diminishing, as is our freedom to practice our religion (stand up for God or Jesus in public).

2. Read Matthew 5:13-16 along with Ezekiel 3:17-21. What promises and warnings do you find in these passages?

From Matthew: If we are not being salt, we’ll be ineffective and trampled upon by the world. If we are being light we will bless others with light and bring glory to God. From Ezekiel: If we warn others

and they repent we will both be blessed. If we don’t warn others we will suffer consequences, as will

the unbeliever.

According to the Matthew passage above, what are God’s people commanded to be and do?

To be salt – preserving society by living righteously as an example for others to follow. To be light – speaking Truth whenever lies are being propagated. To warn others of the consequences of sin – or disobedience to God’s laws.



3. From those scriptures, why do you think Christianity is having so little influence in the culture today?

(Personal responses) Example: Because we've given the education system over to the

State (that is anti-Christianity) we cannot even speak the truth or warn others without persecution.

And the churches have been intimidated to not speak up for fear of the same persecution.

4. Do you think God will hold Christians at least partially responsible for the moral collapse of our nation?

Yes. Because HE has given us the highest moral code ever known.

He has given us the responsibility to love others as ourselves, which

means we are to not only share God's truth with others, but to warn them if they are on a path that will lead them to danger or death.



5. *Read 2 Chronicles 7:14.* Where is there hope for us?

By humbling ourselves, praying for His forgiveness and help, seeking diligently to know Him,

repenting (turning from and rejecting our old ways of thinking and living)

Where Do We Start?

The Role of Education in the Christian Life

Education Statistics

- 20 % of high school grads can't read their diplomas
- 85 % of all juveniles in the court system are functionally illiterate
- More than 60 % of all prison inmates are functionally illiterate
- One child in 4 grows up not knowing how to read
- What % of those with level 5 skills live in poverty 4 %

Welfare Statistics

- 3 out of 4 Food Stamp recipients perform in the lowest 2 literacy levels
- 90 % of welfare recipients are high school dropouts

How Did We Fall So Far So Fast?

- We allowed the State take over the education system
- We've lost the knowledge of how to apply our Bible to the world around us

Why study a Biblical Worldview?

- Christians are not taught to think in Biblical categories
- We're losing our Christian youth to alien worldviews that dominate popular culture and college campuses

Over 70 % of all Christian teens abandon their faith by second year in college.



Session 1: Day 9

Defining a Worldview



Watch part 2 beginning at the title “What is a Worldview?” to the end of the video. Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. How would you define a worldview?

(Personal responses) but one example is: YOUR DEEPLY-HELD BELIEFS
that directly and dramatically impact Decisions and YOUR BEHAVIOR.

(the same as a religion or ideology)

2. Can you point to some examples of how people often live their lives in a manner that is not consistent with the religion they profess to follow? Why is it harmful to claim belief in something, but ignore it in your behavior?

(Personal responses)



3. Point out a few news issues being talked about on today's news broadcasts or newspapers that have at least 2 different sides that one might take on them.

ISSUE 1: (examples) Same-sex marriage; climate change; economics - socialism or free-markets; minimum wage laws; separation of the church from politics; welfare policies; abortion

ISSUE 2: _____

ISSUE 3: _____



Session 1: Day 10

Your Worldview Matters



Watch part 2 beginning at the title “What is a Worldview?” to the end of the video. Take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. The Barna survey asked these questions:

“Do you believe. . .

- Absolute moral truth exists?
- Those truths are defined in the Bible?
- Do you believe in ALL these 6 religious views:
 - 1) Jesus Christ lived a sinless life
 - 2) God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe and He stills rules it today
 - 3) Salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned
 - 4) Satan is real
 - 5) A Christian has a responsibility to share their faith in Christ with other people
 - 6) The Bible is perfect in all of its teachings”

(Personal responses)

Do you believe in every statement? _____ (If not, we ask that you keep an open mind as you continue through these classes.)

Where and how can we get answers to those questions? The Bible; critically thinking through these ideas.

Pray for wisdom and understanding. Ask those who can help you understand. DON'T avoid the questions.

2. What can we expect the result will be if Christians are not unified in what they believe?

We will be unsure in what we believe. We will be susceptible to deception. We will be easily defeated.

3. How do our core beliefs about what is true and what is not, affect our behavior? Give examples.

If we believe something to be true, we will follow it; if we believe it's not, we won't.

Many today - even many Christians - believe that their personal circumstances can justify stealing or

lying, but that can become habitual and there will eventually be negative consequences.

If we believe those things are wrong, we will consistently be honest and truthful, and we'll be known as trustworthy.

4. Read *2 Corinthians 10:4-5* and *Colossians 2:8*. In light of what was presented in the video, what do you think these verses mean in today's world?

We battle ideas and we need to know what we believe and why, in order to not be deceived into believing and living-out ideas that are not true or right.

5. What do you think are the most dangerous IDEAS that "go against the knowledge of God" and are "taking people captive", that the church needs to stand up against and "demolish"?

"Evolving" Morality. "There is no such thing as right or wrong -- everything is relative". Christians live only by grace. The Laws of God are not important. etc.

Interpreting Colossians 2:8 in today's world:

6. What do you think it means to be taken captive, and can you give some examples?

(Personal responses)

7. What does “hollow and deceptive philosophy” mean to you?

(Personal responses)

8. What does it mean to depend on Christ rather than on human tradition and the principles of the world? *Read John 15:1-17 and Proverbs 3:4-5 to help you answer.*

We live by His words. We stay close to Him by reading the Bible regularly (daily, as much as possible)

and studying to know how to apply it in every area of life. We trust in His words more than in our own

thoughts and ideas.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 1, Days 8-10.

Matthew 5:13-16
Ezekiel 3:17-21
2 Chronicles 7:1

2 Corinthians 10:4-5
Colossians 2:8
John 15:1-17

Proverbs 3:4-5

***Recommended reading:** “The 5,000 Year Leap - the 28 great Ideas That Changed the World”, by W. Cleon Skousen. Published by the National Center for Constitutional Studies, 2006; “How Christianity Changed the World” copyright 2004 by Alvin J. Schmidt; Published by Zondervan*



Please take the time to reflect and pray about what you learned and discussed so far. If you have questions, write them down to share during the next session.



THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW OF HISTORY

Session 2: Day 1

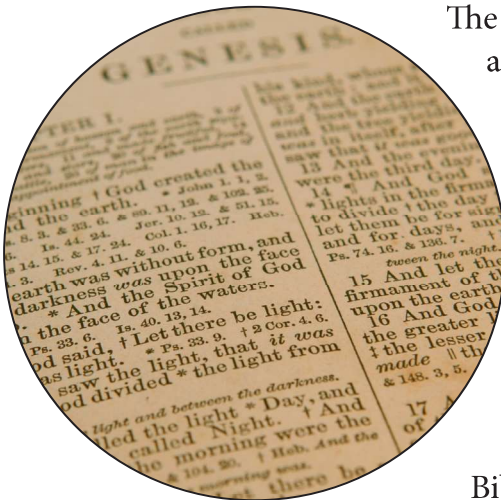
The Christian Worldview of History



Read the following section before watching the video of session 2.

History is either of extreme value, or it is of no value at all.

We live in an era where history is often re-written for the purpose of achieving a personal or political agenda. Today's modern ideology states that the only thing we learn from history is that nothing can be learned from history. Those who hold to this viewpoint might simply say that history is random and unguided – just like evolution.



The Christian worldview is quite the opposite. The Bible views all history through the eyes of God. All history, therefore, is HIS-story. Our God is the AUTHOR of all history. He has a plan and He is working it... through us!

With this in mind, the foundation for our worldview of history is the Bible. Thus, we will begin by considering the proposition that the Bible is a SUPERNATURAL source of truth and knowledge; and as such, it is absolutely reliable as our basis for true history. As we investigate this principle, we will compare the reliability of the Bible alongside the most highly revered secular writings in all of history. How does the Bible stand up?... We'll see.

Next, we will consider the proposition that God is still as INVOLVED in the lives of His people today as He was in the times of the writing of the Bible.

Our purpose in this class is to awaken the church to the reality that our lives are playing an active part in God's plan whether we acknowledge it or not; and on That Day when we meet Him face-to-face, we will be rewarded or reprimanded accordingly for our participation in His plan.

Is our knowledge of history valuable and even vital? Yes!

Can our knowledge of history protect us from repeating the same mistakes of generations past? Absolutely!

Will that knowledge lead us to wiser choices for our future? You can count on it!

Yes. HIS-story is worthy of our study!



Watch part 1 up to the title “How reliable is the Bible compared to all other ancient texts?” (10 min, 36 second mark). Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, consider/discuss these questions.

We spoke of History as HIS-story. The proposition we’re making is that God has always been – and still is – intimately involved in the lives of all people born, and that having a basic knowledge of history is vital for us to understand our purpose in the world we live in today.

1. It was stated that the B i b l e is the beginning of God’s memory passed on to us. What does this mean to you?

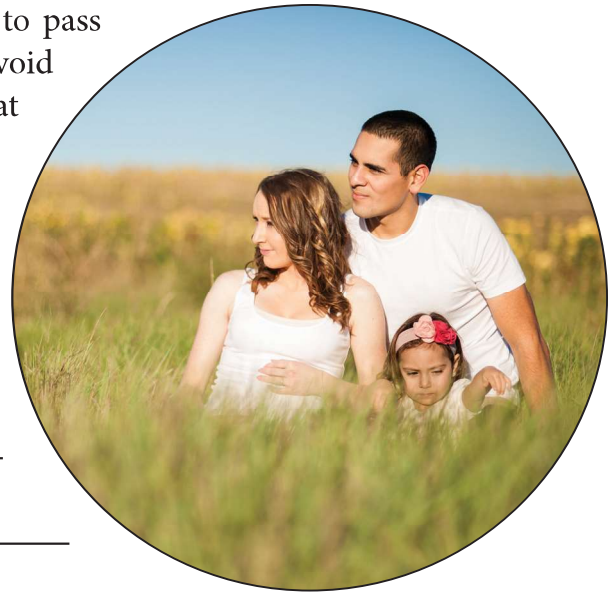
(Personal responses)

2. But God did not stop His work with us upon the completion of the Bible. H i s t o r y is the continuation of God’s workings with mankind through the ages. This should be important to us because, as it has been said, “those who don’t know history are condemned to R e p e a t I T.” To illustrate this...

Give an example of the consequences you might suffer if you forgot a lesson you learned earlier.

(Personal responses)

3. A large portion of the role of parents is to pass on to their children the wisdom of how to avoid making the same mistakes they made. What would happen to the child if even one of the parents lost their memory entirely?



(Personal responses)

4. *Read Romans 15:4 and 1 Corinthians 10:11.* Why, then, is it important that we have a reasonable knowledge of history – especially in regard to God’s monumental interventions of the past?

So that we wouldn't be ignorant of the lessons others learned in the past. We don't want to make the same mistakes. From the examples of the past, we are warned what NOT to do, and we can have assurance that if we do things the right way, we can have success - which gives us hope, so that we don't quit.

5. We have defined “history” as “His-Story”. In your own words, what does this mean?

(Personal responses)

6. What might be the results if the government or educational system of a nation taught a false version of significant historical events? And can you think of any examples?

The people could easily be manipulated by those who are being deceptive. We can then be controlled and kept ignorant of the effects of the ideas that history has proven to be harmful to us.

Examples abound in today's school system regarding the true history of Christianity's influence in the world and

America's founding fathers; the history of socialism, abortion, traditional marriage, homosexuality, "free speech" rights; the history of the civil rights movement, etc.

7. Can you think of any current social or political "battlegrounds" that might benefit if everyone had a better understanding of the true historical background of the ideas in conflict? (*ex: Israel vs Palestine*)

The history of: * The 2 dominant political parties in America * The development of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution... how trustworthy are they in today's world? * The history of the education system in America

from the founding until now. * The historical background of all religions. Are they all the same -- leading to

the same god, or equivalent ideas, behaviors, or results in one's life?

We have stated that the Bible is S u p e r n a t u r a l in its Origin. What does that mean to you and why is that important?

(Personal responses)



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 2, Day 1.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-5

Genesis 1:1

Matthew 24:35

Isaiah 40:8

1 Peter 1:24

Genesis 9:8-17

Isaiah 48:3-5

Session 2: Day 2

The Bible is Supernatural in its Origin



Watch part 1 again up to the title “How reliable is the Bible compared to all other ancient texts?” (10 min, 36 second mark). You may take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. Read Isaiah 46:10-11, Daniel 2:21. What does God say about His role in history?

HE is in control. He lives outside of time. His predictions will always come to pass. He governs

over all nations. He is the giver of all wisdom



2. Read 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Jeremiah 1:2-3; Ezekiel 1:3; Hosea 1:3. From these scriptures, how would you explain in your own language whose words make up the Bible?

Every word came directly from God Himself, spoken to men who faithfully penned the exact words.

The Bible is the Word of God.

3. Read Romans 1:18, 21-22, 28, 32. Why do you think so many denominations have veered from this absolute truth, and how has that hurt Christianity?

They suppressed parts that they don't want to be accountable to,
or they simply neglected their duty to search the Scriptures

with all their heart, mind, and strength. They did not

give Him the glory He is due.



4. Why do you think God gave – and preserved – the Bible?

(Personal responses)



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 2, Day 2.

2 Timothy 3:16-17
Revelation 22:7

Revelation 18-19
Deuteronomy 4:2

Deuteronomy 12:32
Proverbs 30:6

Session 2: Day 3

The Bible is Supernatural in its Transmission



Watch part 1 beginning at the title “How reliable is the Bible compared to all other ancient texts?” (10 min, 36 second mark) and continue to the end of Part 1. Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. We stated in the video that the Bible consists of 66 books by 40 authors written in 3 languages, on 3 continents over a period of 1500 years, and yet its message never changes. How can that be explained, especially when compared to any other book?

(Personal responses) ... but a hint: It can't be explained except by claiming the most extraordinary, coincidences that stretch the imagination.

2. Do you consider that to be extraordinary, and if so, why?

(Personal responses)

3. Why is it important for all Christians to be aware of the overwhelming evidence of the reliability of Bible translations – especially compared to all other famous classical literature?

Because the first thing the enemy of our souls wants to do is create doubt in our minds regarding His Word.

When we are sure that the content and meaning of the Bible has not changed in over 3,000 years of translations - unlike all other ancient books - we will have overcome one of the first major objections most non-believers use as an excuse to never read the Bible or consider Christianity at all.

4. Why do you think the emphasis on remembering or not-forgetting is so prominent in the books of Deuteronomy and Psalms?

(Personal responses) It can be asked: "Why is anything in YOUR life ever worth remembering - or not forgetting?"

5. In light of the last question, why should the study of history be important to Christians, and how might it benefit us?

(Personal responses)



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 2, Day 3.

Matthew 24:35
2 Timothy 3:16-17
2 Peter 1:16-21
Deuteronomy 4:10

Deuteronomy 5:15
Deuteronomy 7:18
Deuteronomy 8:2
Deuteronomy 8:18

Deuteronomy 9:7
Deuteronomy 11:2

Session 2: Day 4

The Bible is Supernatural in its Transmission



Watch part 1, beginning at the title “How reliable is the Bible compared to all other ancient texts?” (10 min, 36 second mark) and continue to the end of Part 1. You may take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



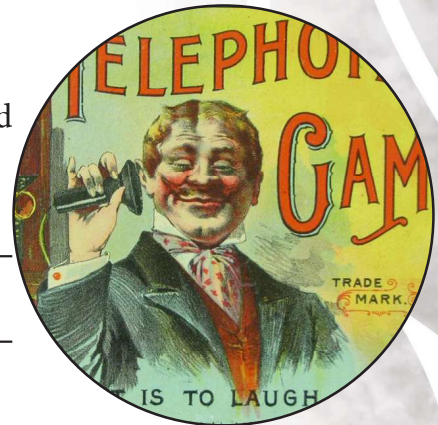
Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

The “Telephone Game”

1. The Bible consists of 66 books, written by 40 authors, who wrote in 3 languages from 3 continents over a span of 1500 years.

2. If it had been written by men alone – without the inspiration of God – what do you think the result would have been?

Chaos. A book of unrelated imaginings of all sorts.



3. In what ways might it strengthen the faith of a Christian to be convinced that the Bible is truly, word-for-word, principle-by-principle, from God the Creator Himself?

His confidence in what he believes and why would grow exponentially. He would not be blown about by every wind of doctrine- like a ship without a rudder.

The Bible is Supernatural in its Transmission



Read Matthew 5:18, Matthew 24:35, Psalm 119:89, Isaiah 55:11.

1. What does God say about the enduring power of the words in the Bible?

Every word will prove true and those truths will never change - on earth or in Heaven - forever

2. The Bible, compared with other ancient writings, has more manuscript evidence than any 10 pieces of classical literature combined. There are over 24,000 manuscripts of various portions of Scripture in existence.

3. Both the New and the Old Testaments have been proven to be over 95 % accurate in words and meaning, in their translations over 1900 - 2,200 years. No other ancient book comes close to that degree of accuracy.

4. Knowing this, does the phrase “supernatural in its transmission” seem appropriate?

(Personal responses)

Why?

5. The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1947, contain many Old Testament manuscripts dating from 100 B.C. And the scroll of Isaiah is identical to the contemporary Hebrew Bible in over 95 % of the text. Why should this matter to us?

It provides a solid proof that the translations we have are accurate and reliable. It provides undeniable proof of the uncanny truth and accuracy of the prophecies of Christ in Isaiah that were made well before Christ

was born. No other work of prophecy in any other religion has ever predicted events with such extraordinary precision.

God is the Author of All History

1. What difference might it make to your faith if you could see many examples of how history was supernaturally guided and controlled by God?

(Personal responses)

2. What is the covenant that God made in Genesis 9:15-17? How important is it that we learn God's promises to us?

He will never again destroy all people on the earth by a flood. His promises provide hope for us.
Because His words will never fail or change, we can count on His promises to us.

God Proves Himself Through History

1. Read *Isaiah 48:3-5*. What does "fulfilled prophecy" mean? According to this scripture passage, why did God give us these prophecies?

Fulfilled prophecy means that a prediction was made regarding something that would happen in the future and it came to pass. God gives us prophecies to prove that He alone was the author of the event, providing
sure proof that His word is supernatural -- coming from a source above and beyond the boundaries of time



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 2, Day 4.

1 Peter 1:24-25
Genesis 9:15-17

Psalm 78:42
Jude 1:6-7

1 Corinthians 10:11-12
Isaiah 48:3-5

Session 2: Day 5

The Prophecy of Babylon



Watch part 2 through the segment titled "Bulletproof George Washington" (12min 49sec). Observe only. Don't try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you've viewed the video, answer the following questions.

God is the Author of All History

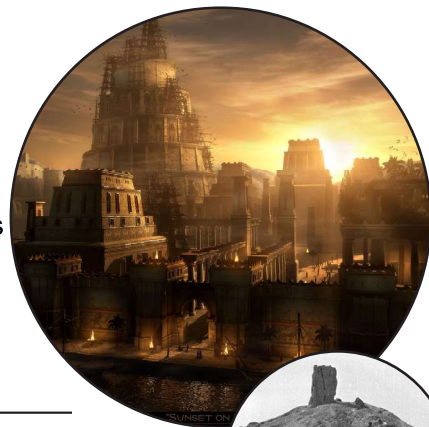
1. What impressed you in the segment on the prophesy of Babylon?

(Personal responses) For example: How accurate in its details

the prophecy was. It is also a frightening picture of the

judgment of God that comes to those cities or nations that

pridefully ignore God



2. How does this support the statement that the Bible is supernatural in its origin?

These prophecies were made hundreds of years before they came true. The accuracy of the predictions,
combined with the mathematical odds necessary for them to happen proves their "out-of-this-world" nature.

3. Edward Chiera speaks of Babylon and asks “... is it the fatal destiny of mankind that all its civilizations must crumble when they reach their peak?” Has America reached its peak? What are your thoughts?

(Personal responses)

God is Involved in All of History

1. What is “Divine Providence”?

A title of God, indicating God's intervention and direction in the Universe.



2. Had you ever heard the account of George Washington at the Battle of Monongahela? _____ What was your impression?

(Personal responses)



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 2, Day 5.

Isaiah 45:1

Isaiah 13:19

Isaiah 14:23

Session 2: Day 6

The Bible is Supernatural in its Message



Watch part 2 through the segment titled “Bulletproof George Washington” (12min 49sec). Take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

God is the A uthor of all history. He wrote the screenplay, created the actors, and assigned everyone their roles. Not one second has passed by without Him knowing every detail intimately!

1. Would you agree that the prophecy of Babylon could be considered as miraculous? Why or why not?

(Personal responses)



Read Micah 5:2; Isaiah 7:14; Psalm 22:7-8, Psalm 14-18, Isaiah 53.

2. Who does it appear that these prophecies are speaking of?

Christ

2. List every prophesy you can find in those passages that came true in Jesus' life, death, or resurrection.

He'll be born in Bethlehem. Born of a virgin. Men will ridicule and mock Him. Actual quotes from the cross are prophesied. Water gushed from His side. His bones came out of joint from hanging.

He died (physicians have diagnosed) from a literal broken heart. His tongue was parched ("I thirst").

They pierced his hands and feet. His garments were divided among others after casting lots

3. Knowing that the Dead Sea Scrolls contain an entire copy of the book of Isaiah, written in 700 B.C. and the copy verified as having been penned no later than 100 years before Christ, what does that say to you regarding the claim that the Bible is supernatural in its Origin, Transmission, and Message?

NOTE: It has been computed that the chances of one man fulfilling just 8 of those prophecies (there are over 10 in those scriptures) has the probability of one chance in 100,000,000,000,000,000. (from the book "Science Speaks", by Peter Stoner)



The evidence is overwhelming that the prophecy was uncanny

in its detail and accuracy. To ignore such evidence is foolish

because the odds are so beyond the realm of coincidence.

Session 2: Day 7

Divine Providence in History



Watch part 2 beginning at the conclusion of the segment titled “Bulletproof George Washington” (12min 49sec), and watch to the end. Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. From the segment “New England Stood Still and Watched the Salvation of God”, what observations or comments do you have?

(Personal responses)

2. This account was available in textbooks in America’s schools until the late 1800s. Why do you think these historical references have been eliminated from the public education system? (Read John 3:19, Romans 1:21-22)

“Men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil.” We prefer to call ourselves wise.

We don’t want to be told what to do or how to live by anyone.

3. Do you think the enemies of Christianity want these historical accounts to be buried?
Yes Why?

(Personal responses) Examples: Pride. They deny God because He makes them accountable for their own behavior. They live in darkness because they prefer it to the light.

4. Marshall Foster was quoted as saying: Many Christians have adopted a “who cares” philosophy of history in which they “de-emphasize their importance in a God-ordained historical chain of Christianity, and see themselves simply as individuals God has plucked out of an evil world who are now just awaiting heaven. Their sense of responsibility for the past and their hope and planning for the building of the future are lost in the ‘now generation’ where they are called to focus on ‘self-improvement.’”

How can this attitude harm us as individuals?

We can become - or stay - self-centered and selfish, causing countless consequences in our lives; i.e., few friends; inner guilt for NOT doing the right thing to help others; our selfish gathering of "things" for

ourselves will leave us empty, unfulfilled, dissatisfied with life, and without anything meaningful to pass on to the next generation.

5. How can this attitude harm the church as God’s representative on earth?

The church is the living representation of Christ on earth. When the church adopts this attitude of history, the world loses the priceless knowledge of God's works in the past that brought us to where we are today.

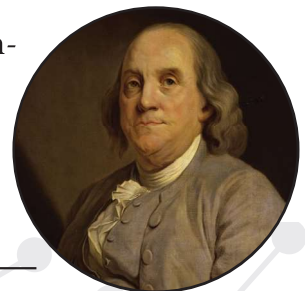
Without that knowledge of the past, we lose the power of working with God today to affect life in the future.

6. What is Deism? Would you agree that God does NOT intervene in the affairs of Man? Why or why not?

The belief that there is a god that formed the universe, but that he left it alone once the creation was finished.

He no longer intervenes in the affairs of man.

7. Were you aware of the role Benjamin Franklin played in the completion of our Constitution and in establishing a congressional Chaplain to begin every session of congress with prayer? _____ Can you comment on the importance of this knowledge of history?



(Personal responses)

8. How does the video share examples of the power of prayer in fasting in times of trouble?

Franklin's speech quotes examples that reinforced the idea that when the founders prayed, God intervened in miraculous ways, and that without His attentiveness to their prayers all would have been lost.

9. Can you remember at least one incident in your life where you believe God intervened on your behalf? If so, write it down:

(Personal responses)



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 2, Day 7.

Daniel 2:21
Matthew 6:25-34

Genesis 26:24
Genesis 28:15

Joshua 1:7-9
Isaiah 41:10

Session 2: Day 8

God is Involved in All History



Watch part 2 beginning at the conclusion of the segment titled “Bulletproof George Washington” (12min 49sec), and watch to the end. Take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. Read Psalm 2. Compare the statements of God in this Psalm to the account of the French Armada and its foiled attempt to wipe-out the American colonies.

The King of France set himself against God's people in America, wanting to break them. But God "laughed". He brought them to a state of chaos and confusion, and they were totally defeated by God.

The lesson (verse 12): respect God and His people or you shall pay severe consequences in this life or the next.

2. From the historical accounts of Washington, the French Armada’s attempt to destroy the colonies and from Ben Franklin’s speech at the Constitutional Convention, what are your thoughts about God’s involvement in America’s history?

(Personal responses) (example) No doubt He had a plan for the nation, and ensured that it was carried out. He used willing vessels (like Washington, who expressed a Christian faith) and unwilling vessels (like Franklin, who for most of his life rejected a personal faith) to accomplish His purpose.

He still does!

3. Go online and read the Declaration of Independence.

(<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/>) and answer the following:

How many times is “God” – or names representing God – referenced? Give those names.

Three. Nature's God (God of the Universe), Creator, Divine Providence

4. List at the main reason (stated in the 2nd paragraph) why the American Colonies believed they had a natural right to break away from the rule of the King of England.



The government of England violated its divine purpose of securing to its citizens the rights to life, liberty, and

the pursuit of happiness. The long string of abuses and broken promises had become destructive to God's people; and in order to obey God, they were required to not obey the tyrannous rule of great Britain.

5. According to the Signers of the Declaration, what God-given rights was the King violating, and how important is each?

L i f e .

See Leviticus 24:17, Psalm 139:13-16, John 10:10.

This right is fundamental because: No one has the right to take another's life without just cause.

God creates life and knits us together in the womb. Man has no right to end the life of any unborn child.

God sets Himself apart from and condemns those who would steal, kill, and destroy the lives of others.

L i b e r t y .

See *Luke 4:18, 1 Tim. 1:10* (references kidnappers/men stealers/slave traders)

This right is fundamental because:

It is God's design that men not be held captive or mistreated against their will. He made us to be free and to be accountable to Him for our lives.

in order to serve Him, obey Him, and follow Him freely, we must be allowed to live free of tyranny and oppression.

The Pursuit of h a p p i n e s s .

See *Psalm 16:11, Psalm 37:4, Psalm 73:25-26, Matthew 13:44, John 15:11.*

This right is fundamental because: Pursuing happiness is equal to pursuing joy as defined in the Bible.

For those who believe in and live for God, He promises we will find joy - even in the midst of oppression.

Repressive governments that ban the Bible and punish anyone who shares the Gospel are - by nature -

opposing God's will, inhibiting the people from knowing God's joy, and are not to be promoted.

Also, this right (the pursuit of happiness) can be traced to the principle of the Sacred Rights of the Conscience

which God has planted in every man's heart and which he should never be forced to violate.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 2, Day 8.

Isaiah 33:22

Ezra 7:24

Deuteronomy 17:6

Exodus 18:21



Recommended research and study texts:

- *“Evidence That Demands a Verdict”, by Josh Mcdowell*
- *“The Light and the Glory”, By Peter Marshall*
- *“The American Covenant”, by Marshall Foster (out of print, but used copies can be found on Amazon.com)*
- *A General Introduction to the Bible by Norman Geisler and William Nix (1986), (Chicago, IL: Moody)*
- *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence by Benson J. Lossing. (Reprinted by David Barton, Walbuilders.com. Available at Walbuilders.com and Amazon.)*

Recommended DVD Video:

- *“Expelled”, starring Ben Stein*



Please take the time to reflect and pray about what you learned and discussed so far. If you have questions, write them down to share during the next session.



THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW OF THEOLOGY

Session 3: Day 1

The Christian Worldview of Theology



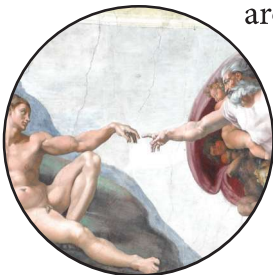
Read the following section before watching the video of session 3.

Every worldview always begins with our view of God.

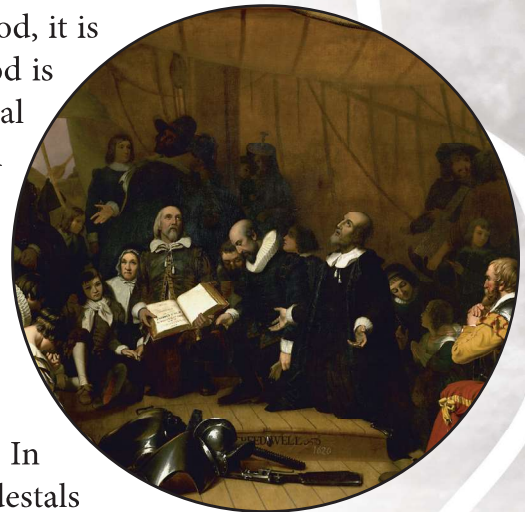
- *Is there a God, or does evolution guide all life?*
- *If there is a God, what is He like?*
- *What does He like? What doesn't He like?*
- *What does He say is right? What does He say is wrong?*
- *Is He personally involved in this world, or not?*
- *Are we accountable to Him; and if so, to what degree?*

Even among those who claim to not believe in a god, it is impossible to live without one. Why? Because a god is simply defined as who or what occupies the central place of importance in your life. Thus, a god can be you, your car, your looks, your favorite sports team. Or it can be something that impassions you, such as politics, the environment, or the natural universe. God is whatever idea or entity we make the center of our life.

We may worship one – or many – gods in our lives. In other words, we may place several “god(s)” on pedestals around which our lives revolve.



Our theology – our view of god - determines our religion, even if we say we aren't religious. This is because a worldview is the same as an ideology or a religion: all are defined by the ideas we embrace and consider to be true and valuable.



An important principle to contemplate is that all the world governments revolve around the dominant religion of that culture, to one degree or another.

The question is, who or what is the center of your life? Who or what is your god? And will he/it lead you to prosper in life, or fail?

Let's compare the worldviews/religions of the day and see which makes sense to live by – or not.



*Watch part 1 up to the title “The Moral Argument” (17 min, 6 second mark).
Observe only. Don't try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.*



Once you've viewed the video, consider/discuss these questions:

Our Theology is vitally important and relative in our lives

1. Define “Theology”?

Theo = God logy = the study of. Thus, the study of God and religious belief

2. Name some of the “gods” that people idolize in today's culture, and what lifestyles do these “gods” often lead them into?

- Self: Life revolves around ME. Selfish, prideful, egotistical, high-minded. They cannot enjoy intimate love
- Wealth: Material things consume them. They are never satisfied. Their appetite can never be filled.
- Power: They never have enough. Ethics and morals may be dismissed. The end justifies the means.
- Amusements: Always needing stimulus. A-muse means "not thinking". Never growing, never achieving

3. Name at least 4 IDEAS that are being hotly debated in our culture today, along with the possible results if those ideas were to be adopted by everyone – including those in your family.

Idea 1: There is no absolute standard of truth or right or wrong

> **Result:** Everyone will do whatever they want, whenever they want, and to whomever they want. It's chaos.

Idea 2: Marriage doesn't have to be only between a man and a woman

> **Result:** A man can marry a man, a little boy, a dog, or a plant. Marriage then becomes meaningless

Idea 3: Socialism is good. Capitalism is evil.

> **Result:** No one should have to work. The government becomes our god. We have a right to anyone's property we choose. When no one works, society collapses.

Idea 4: There is no God

> **Result:** Everyone behaves however they wish. There is no internal conscience restraining evil behavior.

4. The “gods” we set up in our lives will directly influence our behavior and determine our future. That is why we say that the most important topic of life is:

“Who is G o d , and what does He R e q u i r e of us.”

5. Everyone, at some time or other, wonders about God. When they take the time to think deeply about this, they ask at least 3 basic questions. Name those questions and the Biblical response to each.

W_h_y am I here? > The Biblical response: To glorify God

What does God R e q u i r e of me? > The Biblical response: Obedience

What does God P r o v i d e for me? > The Biblical response: Forgiveness of Sin (and the gift of eternal life)

Arguments that support the Biblical claims about God

6. The physical laws of the universe (like the Law of Gravity) are necessary for life to exist. Without laws there will be C h a o s.

7. There are over 20 physical laws that govern our universe, and all are fine-tuned to the tiniest of degrees. IF JUST ONE OF THOSE LAWS GOES OUT OF TUNE IN THE SLIGHTEST, THE RESULT IS: N o L i f e!

8. The Bible says: “Heaven and Earth will pass away, but my Word will last forever”. God gave us only 10 Moral Laws. How important are those moral laws compared to the physical laws, and why?

Because this verse states that the physical universe will pass away someday, but His Words will

always remain, it is obvious that his Moral Laws carry far more weight. We can violate the physical laws

with sometimes no consequences at all; but if we violate the moral laws there will always be consequences,

both in the physical world (though not necessarily immediately) and in the spiritual world.

9. What physical consequences may come from disobeying God’s Moral Laws?

Carrying the internal guilt can cause anxiety that the body will suffer from.

If we steal, lie, or murder, we may suffer imprisonment or death.

If we covet property that others have, it can lead us to stealing from or injuring another - which can lead to penalties suffered as a result.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 3, Day 1.

Matthew 24:35

Jeremiah 10:12

Isaiah 6:3

Ephesians 2:4-5

Ephesians 2:8-9

1 John 4:8

Psalms 62:8

Galatians 3:13

Session 3: Day 2

How Can We Know There is a God?



Watch part 1 again up to the title “The Moral Argument” (17 min, 6 second mark). You may take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. We live in a battleground of IDEAS. Read 2 Cor. 10:4-5. List some ideas that have gained wide acceptance in America that you think are bad ideas (they are bad because they do not agree with scripture, and therefore, are hurtful to individuals and society).

(Personal responses) For example: Gay marriage; materialism; feminism; social welfare in place of personal responsibility; progressive taxation

Arguments that support the Biblical claims about God

Argument #1:

2. The COS mological Argument. This states that “Everything has a BE ginning , therefore there must be a BE ginner .

Read Genesis, chapter 1. Name as many specific items of creation mentioned in this chapter as you can.

The heavens(planets, stars, etc); the Earth; light; water; grass; herbs/seeds; trees;
fish; birds; mammals; man; woman.

3. What can we learn about the characteristics of this Creator/Beginner by looking closely at the wide variety of everything created in Genesis 1?

He has a great imagination! He is orderly. He is not boring. He is brilliant in ways we can't imagine.

His thoughts are so above ours it is incomprehensible.

4. In *Genesis 1, verses 1-2*, Who else is stated to be present at Creation?

The Holy Spirit

5. *Read Colossians 1:13-17*. Who is stated to be the Creator in this passage?

Christ

6. Therefore, according to these 2 passages, who all is present at creation?

Father _____, Son _____, the Holy Spirit _____

7. In *Genesis 1:26*, who is God referring to when He says: "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..."? the Trinity _____

Argument #2:

8. The TELE ological _____ Argument. This states that "Every DE sign _____ has a designer _____.

9. The video revealed the chances of the strength of gravity being fine-tuned as perfectly as it is, to be 1 chance in 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. Do you think that could have happened by coincidence? NO _____

Why? (Personal responses) Ex: The odds are _____
so far beyond the realm of possibility that it would _____

be foolish to believe.



10. Cars, wristwatches, and radios all have been designed by man. Can you name any living thing in creation that is not VASTLY more complicated than cars, wristwatches, or radios? If so, name one: There are none

11. Why, then, do many seemingly rational persons believe that living things did NOT come from a designer?
(see Romans 1: 18-32, 2 Corinthians 4:4) _____

They have to abandon reason and logic. Once they do
that, they become more like an animal than a human
living by only what makes them feel good



12. Read Psalm 139:13-14. What does this say about the design of Man?

He was designed meticulously, from the smallest detail in the cell
to the deepest complexities of coordination between the various systems within the body.
God watched over every part of our growth in the womb with great care.

13. How might this bring comfort to a Christian?

He knows us more deeply, more intimately, and He cares about us more compassionately
than any person ever could. He always has our best in mind!



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 3, Day 2.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5
Psalms 139:4
Psalms 139:13

Genesis 1:1-2 with John 1:1-3
John 1:14
Colossians 1:13-17

Session 3: Day 3

The Moral Argument for the Existence of God



Watch part 1 beginning at the title “The Moral Argument” (17 min, 6 second mark) and continue to the end of Part 1. Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. Do you agree with the idea that everyone knows certain behaviors - like stealing, lying, cheating, or committing murder - are wrong? Why or why not?

(Personal responses)



2. From your experience, what are most people in the movies, the news, or the social media saying what is right or wrong?

(Personal responses)

3. The Christian worldview states that God is Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent. What would be the result if God was NOT any one of those 3?

(Personal responses) Ex: If not omnipotent: There would be other gods - but none would be the god

of all. There would be confusion. If not Omniscient, some gods could have knowledge that

surpass another. Which god would we trust? Again, confusion would reign. If not Omnipresent - we could hide

from him, and we couldn't be assured of his everlasting protection.

4. Christianity states that God is Ruler, He is Righteous, and He is Relational. Again, what would be the result if God was NOT any one of those 3?

Not ruler: Man could do whatever he wants to others. Not righteous: He could be wrong and do wrong to us and to others. He could command us to do evil. Not relational: He would be dispassionate, uncaring, unsympathetic, impersonal, distant, callous.

5. What do you think “the fear of the Lord” means?

As asked in the 1st session, the answer is the same: (1) Fear the CONSEQUENCES that must follow when we disobey His laws - either by rebellion or ignorance. (2) To obey God not because we fear Him, but because we love Him and want to please Him.

How Can We Know God?

6. By G e n e r a l Revelation. *Read Job 12:7-10.* When looking at the life around us, how obvious is it that they have been created, and why?

The beauty, creativity, design, and complexity of each form of life mentioned demands awe that man could never match

7. By S p e c i a l Revelation. *Read 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:3.* What are these scriptures saying, and how important is this principle in our Christian walk?

The words, ideas, and principles (doctrines) contained in the Bible include everything we need to live by and are full of the knowledge and wisdom of God capable of handling every problem and inspiring us in every good work.

What is the God of the Bible like?

God is:

- Ruler. Read Psalm 115:3; Prov. 16:9; Romans 8:28. What does this principle mean to you and how important is it?

He is absolutely in charge. He is everything we need Him to be: Our protector, deliverer, provider, our lawgiver. He works all things together for our good when we put our trust in Him.

- Righteous. Read Psalm 119:137; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 145:17. What does this principle mean to you and how important is it?

He always IS right, DOES right, JUDGES right. His righteous laws are a firm foundation for all of man's laws.

NOTE: this should be
Gen. 2:18!

- Relational. Read Gen. ~~X~~18; Malachi 3:17; Matthew 14:14; John 3:16-18.

What does this principle mean to you and how important is it?

God cares about me. He knows it is not good to be alone. We are treated as His own sons. He is compassionate - He knows all about me and still loves me. He saves me.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 3, Day 3.

Ecclesiastes 3:11
Psalms 19:1
Job 12:7-10
Romans 1:20
Colossians 1:6

Nehemiah 9:6
Psalms 33:9
2 Timothy 3:16
2 Peter 1:3
Psalms 115:3

Proverbs 16:9
Romans 8:28
Psalms 119:137
Deuteronomy 32:4
Psalms 145:17

Genesis 1:18
Malachi 3:17
Matthew 14:14
John 3:16-18

Session 3: Day 4

What is the God of the Bible Like?



Watch part 1 again, beginning at the title “The Moral Argument” (17 min, 6 second mark) and continue to the end of Part 1. You may take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

The Moral Argument for the Existence of God

Argument #3:

1. The Moral Argument. This states that “Because the Moral Law transcends (is above) humanity, this universal law requires a universal lawgiver.”

Read Romans 1:18-28; 2:14-15; Ecclesiastes 3:11. What do these passages convey about the universal presence of a “conscience” in every human? (Who put it there? What does the conscience say to everyone?)

God clearly states that everyone born has been given knowledge of God (con-science means “with knowledge”), by God Himself. Therefore no one can, in truth, deny His existence.

The conscience tells us all that stealing, lying, murdering, coveting, committing adultery, and dishonoring parents is wrong. It condemns our hearts when we do those things

How Can We Know God?

General Revelation

He is revealed generally in CREATION.

2. *Read Psalm 19:1-4; Romans 1:20.* What do these passages say about General Revelation?

It reveals the glory of God. Creation confirms in the material world what God’s Word reveals in our understanding.

Special Revelation

God is revealed specifically in the Bible.

3. Read *2 Timothy 3:16*; *2 Peter 1:3*; *Hebrews 4:12*. In your own words, where do the Scriptures come from, and what specific purposes do they perform?

(Personal responses): ex: They come from God directly. They provide clarity in doctrine (what we believe), correction, reproof (discipline), and training in righteousness. They show us our sin and they reveal God's character: holiness, mercy, justice, love, etc.

Everything we need to know about life and how to live a godly manner is in His Word.

4. What do these passages say about the completeness of the Bible we have, and what does that mean in our complicated lives today?

The Bible contains all that God wants to convey to us for our success, yet it is a fountain for learning more and more daily. It is our counseling manual, our family manual, our relationship manual, our life manual.

5. What are some results if one chooses to not believe in ALL the words of the Bible?

We will miss the mark. We can fall into a ditch of errors that will bring heartache and sorrow to ourselves and others. We will choose which words we agree with and which words we don't. When we

look at the Bible that way, we are making ourselves judge and jury of God's words. Why even have a Bible?

It really is all or nothing.

What is the God of the Bible like?

God is Ruler

1. He is King of kings and Lord of lords. Read *Exodus 6:6; 7:5; 10:2; Leviticus 18:4; Matthew 7:21, and Isaiah 45:5-6*. What does God mean when he says: “I am the Lord?”

He is the only God, the One we are called to obey

2. He is everlasting. Read *Nehemiah 9:5; Psalm 41:13; 90:2; 145:13, Hebrews 13:8, and James 1:17*. What assurances and strengths can we receive from these passages?

Because He has always been, and forever will always be, we can count on Him to be forever good, true, righteous, compassionate, and present.

3. He is omnipotent (all-powerful). Read *Genesis 1:1; Exodus 9:16; Joshua 4:24*. How shall we respond, knowing how powerful He is?

God showed His power in Pharaoh – the most powerful man on earth at the time – by humbling him. It is better for us if we humble ourselves! Maintaining a healthy fear of God is the beginning of wisdom – remembering who He is and who we are not. We are to praise him with a grateful heart because we don't deserve His grace, mercy, and love.

4. He is omniscient (all-knowing). Read *Job 21:22; 37:16; Psalm 19:2; Proverbs 3:19-20; 10:14; Daniel 2:21; Luke 8:10*. What do these passages say about God's knowledge?

There is nothing that can be known that is outside of Him. All the universe shouts out the glory of His brilliance and wisdom. All the universe was made by His wisdom and knowledge. He controls the seasons, the rulers, he is the giver of all wisdom. We can never attain His knowledge ourselves.

5. He is omnipresent (present everywhere and at all times). Read *Jeremiah 23:24; Job 34:22; Isaiah 29:15; Psalm 139:7*. Why might knowing this bring fear to some, and comfort to others?

There is nowhere we can go out of His sight – not even in the darkest places. Even our very thoughts are known by Him. This is frightening to those who are lost, but immensely comforting to those who are found!

God is Righteous

1. He is Holy, Perfect, always Right, always True, always Good. The word “Holy” means set apart. Set apart from what?

Anything that is joined to Sin, darkness, and evil. He is set apart from doing or saying or even looking at anything that God defines as sin in his Word

2. Read *Isaiah 6:1-5* and *Revelation 4:1-11*. Here God is praised as being Holy, Holy, Holy. If you were there in each of these situations, what do you think would be running through your mind?

(Personal responses) Ex: I'm NOT Holy or worthy to stand in His presence! “Maybe if I beg for mercy, He'll grant it to me –that's my only hope.”

God is Relational

1. Read *Genesis 2:18; 5:24; John 3:16; Hebrews 13:5*. How do these scriptures testify to a relational God?

1) God cared that man was lonely, so He did something to remedy it. 2) We can walk with God.

He will walk with us. Then, he will take us to be with him. 3) He gave His Son for us to save us.

4) We will never be alone, outside of His presence and care.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 3, Day 4.

2 Timothy 3:16

Exodus 6:6

Matthew 7:21

2 Chronicles 20:6

2 Peter 1:3

Exodus 7:5

Isaiah 40:28; 45:17

Isaiah 6:1-5

Hebrews 4:12

Exodus 10:2

Isaiah 51:11; 54:8

Revelation 22:18-19

Leviticus 18:4

1 Chronicles 29:11

Session 3: Day 5

The Fundamental Beliefs of Humanism



Watch part 2 up to the segment titled “Islam” (12min 53sec). Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

How does the God of the Bible compare to all other “gods”?

The Humanist Manifesto I (a partial list of their beliefs)

- Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created.
- Humanism believes that man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as a result of a continuous process.
- We are convinced that the time has passed for theism, deism, modernism, and the several varieties of “new thought”.
- (As man evolves...) there will be no uniquely religious emotions and attitudes of the kind hitherto associated with belief in the supernatural.
- Man will learn to face the crises of life in terms of his knowledge of their naturalness and probability. Reasonable and manly attitudes will be fostered by education and supported by custom. We assume that humanism will take the path of social and mental hygiene and discourage sentimental and unreal hopes and wishful thinking.
- ...A socialized and cooperative economic order must be established to the end that the equitable distribution of the means of life be possible. The goal of humanism is a free and universal society in which people voluntarily and intelligently cooperate for the common good. Humanists demand a shared life in a shared world.



1. What does Humanism believe about God? He is a myth, and a crutch, for the weak and unintelligent

2. State at least one logical positive or negative result in a person's life if he/she embraces this worldview?

He will be his own god and have no supernatural, all-powerful Father to guide and watch over him.

He will have no absolute Truth to instruct him to determine right from wrong. He will miss out on the blessings that come from following Christ's example of putting others first (it is more

blessed to give than receive). There appears to be nothing positive.

3. From the video and the highlighted beliefs of Humanism above, can you explain what relationship religion has with politics and education, if any?

Politics and religion are both belief systems that determine what is moral (right or wrong). The ideology that proceeds from each will form the basis of the education system that comes from it. Since the politics of a nation are an extension of the religion that dominates that nation, the education system will follow whatever religion dominates the political.

Today in America, Humanism is the primary religion that dominates our political system, which, in turn, rules over the education system.

4. Name at least 2 results that might occur when a nation embraces Humanism over Christianity?

1. Our basic freedoms (religious beliefs, speech, assembly, self-defense, etc) will be squelched
2. The state will become god, the community will become more important than the individual, and the individual will become a simple part of a callous machine.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 3, Day 5.

Proverbs 29:2

Romans 1:18-25

2 Corinthians 4:4

2 Thessalonians 2:11

To read the entire Humanist Manifesto, see <http://modernhistoryproject.org/mhp?Article=HumanManifest>

Session 3: Day 6

Humanism



Watch part 2 up to the segment titled “Islam” (12min 53sec). Take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



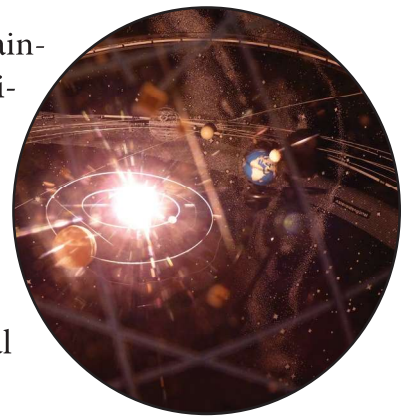
Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

How does God of the Bible compare to all other “gods”?

Humanism. This is the religion of America’s current government, media, and educational system.

“Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created; & believe that man is just one part of nature, the result of evolution.”

1. The foundational belief - the one upon which all the remaining beliefs of Humanism rest – is that everything in the universe - countless stars, comets, varieties of birds, flowers, animals with eyes that see, and, of course, human beings that can critically think - came from nothing, by chance, through an explosion, and without any intelligent designer. Do you see any evidence of this “something created from and by nothing” in reality? _____. Does this seem logical to believe? Why or why not?



(Personal responses)

2. Try to list at least 4 dangerous consequences in the society around us that are the result of this worldview.

(Personal responses) Examples:

1. The lack of a healthy fear of God results in seared consciences, leading to lawlessness and unbridled passions
 2. Science will show no constraint in their experiments to "be like God"
 3. There will be a loss of respect for human life and increased worship of creation
 4. There will be no foundation for unchanging law. Justice will be dependant upon which judge rules. Abortion is rampant (2)God is ridiculed or ignored (3)God's laws are disobeyed, so everyone is being hurt (4) God is leaving our country.
3. Read the Humanist Manifesto I at <http://modernhistoryproject.org/mhp?Article=HumanManifest>. See the list of signers of the Manifesto at the bottom.

How many of the 34 signers were educators? 14.

How many were affiliated with religious denominations or organizations? 8 (+/-).

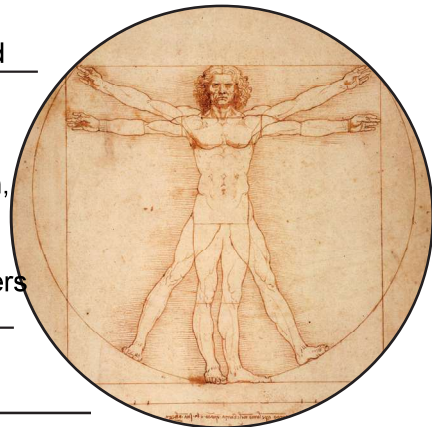
What significance does this have and how might this affect us today?

The educators are the most influential of all over the views and beliefs of the youth in the nation. Just these university 14 professors indoctrinated tens of thousands of students who

went on to careers as future teachers, ministers, congressmen, Senators, Supreme Ct Justices, and even U.S. Presidents.

The ministers affected hundreds of thousands of future ministers and the entire congregations that attend their churches.

No wonder we see such un-Biblical thinking in America today!



4. Read Roman 1:18-25 and 2 Corinthians 4:4. How does the Bible explain the philosophy of Humanists?

They're "truth" is not true or right. They disdain the Bible. They don't honor God, though they inately know that He is. They're unthankful for the free common graces they receive; they are proud, hard-hearted; they profess to be wise - which makes them fools. They worship the creature rather than the Creator. They

suppress the truth, so God gives them over to darkness.

5. From the video that spoke of the rise of the “Intercollegiate Socialist Society”, why do you think they were so successful in changing America’s culture, and what lessons do they provide for the church today?

They were devoted to their cause; therefore they concentrated their combined efforts toward a long range goal.

Lessons: We need to raise our level of commitment; establish a long-range goal; work together to achieve it.

The Humanist’s goal was to reach the youth to change the culture through education. We should do the same.

This should be our highest priority.

Why do you think that many communist/socialist nations are Humanist in their world-view/religion?

Because both those systems of government depend upon control of the minds and lives of the people – it is forced coercion. Therefore the State must be their god. There can be no other

In Humanism, who is Ruler? the State (man's government w/o God). Can you count on righteousness to rule in such a nation? No. Why or why not?

Man is not righteous and the State is made up of men who create their own ideas of right and wrong, which change continually and are bent toward sin.

Can you expect their ruler(s) to be relational? No. What difference would that make?

Some will be evil and power-hungry, etc.. What difference would that make? If rulers are not godly, they won’t be relational because their natural selfish tendencies will rule them, causing the people to be abused



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 3, Day 6.

2 Timothy 3:2, 4-5

2 Timothy 3:4-5

Romans 1:18-25

Romans 1:28-30

2 Corinthians 4:4

Jude 3

Session 3: Day 7

How does the God of the Bible compare to all other “gods”?



Watch the part 2 beginning at the segment titled “Islam” (12min 53sec), and watch to the end. Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

Islam

Islam is a monotheistic religious faith that developed in the Middle East in the 7th century. Islam, which literally means “surrender” or “submission,” was founded on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad. The Quran, the sacred text of Islam, contains the teachings of the Prophet that were claimed to be revealed to him from Allah. Essential to Islam is the belief that Allah is the one and true God with no partner or equal. Islam has several branches and much variety within those branches. The two divisions within the tradition are the Sunni and Shi’a, each of which claims different means of maintaining religious authority. One of the unifying characteristics of Islam is the Five Pillars, the fundamental practices of Islam. These five practices include a ritual profession of faith, ritual prayer, the zakat (charity), fasting, and the hajj (a pilgrimage to Mecca).



In the book titled “Unveiling Islam” (by Ergon and Emir Caner, page 118): “Allah’s heart is set against the infidel (kafir). He has no love for the unbeliever, nor is it the task of the Muslim to “evangelize” the unbelieving world. Allah is to be worshiped, period. Any who will not do so must be defeated, silenced, or expelled. The theme is conquest, not conversion, of the unbelieving world. Allah has called the Muslim to make the name of Allah alone to be worshiped.”

It should be noted that the Koran never defines Allah as a God of love.

The following scriptures from the Koran are just a small sample of the many which convey the same ideology to both the leaders and the common people:

Prophet, make war on the unbelievers and the hypocrites and deal rigorously with them. Hell shall be their home: an evil fate. (Koran 9:73)

Believers, make war on the infidels who dwell around you. Deal firmly with them. Know that God is with the righteous. (Koran 9:123)

1. In relation to rulership, describe Allah?

He is absolute ruler, but he rules alone. Submit or perish is the rule for survival. Because he rules alone, he has no understanding of mutual compassion or love.

2. Regarding Islam, what strikes you about the descriptions of Allah?

He is cold, insensitive, uncaring - even to believers. To unbelievers, he is full of terror and hate. There is no forgiveness (as we know it). If he was my father, life would appear endless work to please him, and it would not be fun!

3. "Even though Islam has proven that it is able to D e s t r o y civilizations, it has yet to B u i l d one." Have you seen evidence of this in our world today? If so, give examples.

Iraq, Iran, Syria, etc are impoverished. Before Israel returned to the land, the Muslims had run the country into the ground. Much of it was a virtual wasteland. But within 20 years of Israel's return, it became one of the most lush, rich, and fruit-bearing nations in the world.

4. What dangers do we see proceeding from this worldview today?

(Personal responses) For example:

1. The spread of terror, subjugation, and intolerance.
2. The overrunning of other nations with no regard for the people and customs of those nations
3. Great fear among the more peace-loving Muslims to speak up or stand up against those who live by terror
4. Tremendous intimidation among those who have different worldviews to comply and submit

5. Personal question: Why do you think Islam is growing at the rate it is?

Their religion encourages many children per family.

Per Wikipedia: Globally, Muslims have the highest fertility rate, an average of 3.1 children per woman—well above replacement level (2.1) due to young age of Muslims (median age of 23) compared to other religious groups. Separately, their growth appears faster because they force many to convert, submit, or die.

Buddhism

Main doctrinal principle: This life is suffering, and the only way to escape from this suffering is to dispel one's cravings and ignorance by realizing the Four Noble Truths and practicing the Eightfold Path, thus attaining Nirvana. Rebirth is one of the central beliefs of Buddhism. We are in an endless cycle of birth, death and re-birth, which can only be broken by attaining nirvana. Attaining nirvana is the only way to escape suffering permanently.



1. Per the video, describe what Buddhism thinks of “god” or “creator”.

- Explicitly rejects a creator
- Denies endorsing any views on creation

- There is no god; or – IF there is, he is unknowable and uninvolved
 - Buddhists do not believe "God created man in his own image"
 - But that Man has created "God" in his image.
-

- The liberation of humanity is contingent upon humanity shedding the delusion that "God" exists.
 - Buddhism is associated with idealism and inaction
-

2. If there is no formal "god" in Buddhism, and Nirvana is only attained by one's efforts; might it be said, then, that the individual becomes his/her own god? Why?

(Personal responses) Answers are subjective. It could be said that we become our own god because we must "do things", i.e., work - for our "salvation"

3. Is Buddhism a Relational religion? Why or why not?

No. Nirvana is not a place like heaven, but rather an eternal state of being. It is the state in which the law of karma and the rebirth cycle come to an end. It is the end of suffering; a state where there are no desires and the individual consciousness comes to an end. There is no God to relate to; and if the greatest "heaven" is the absence of anything other than what might remain of self, it personifies aloneness.

4. Buddhists believe that Life is an I l l u s i o n. Therefore, the people are I n d i f f e r e n t to issues of the world.

5. From the video and from your experience, what are the results/consequences of this worldview in the people and societies that have embraced it?

(Personal responses) Examples: Poverty. Ignorance. Isolation. Lack of drive, initiative, and creativity among the majority. • The people are indifferent – "Life is an illusion"

- Buddhist nations are easily controlled by tyrants
 - All Buddhist nations live in poverty
-

- Tyrannical Rulers
 - Self-centered Individualism
-

Hinduism

Hinduism claims to be the world's oldest religion. It has no human founder. It is a mystical religion, leading the devotee to personally experience the Truth within, finally reaching the pinnacle of consciousness where man and God are one. One can believe a variety of things about God, the universe, and the path to liberation and still be considered a Hindu. Most Hindus are devoted followers of one of the principal gods Shiva, Vishnu or Shakti, and often others besides, yet all these are regarded as manifestations of a single Reality. Perhaps the most well-known Hindu saying about religion is: "Truth is one; sages call it by different names."



Hindus believe in the existence of an enduring soul that transmigrates from one body to another at death (reincarnation); and the law of karma that determines one's destiny both in this life and the next.

1. If there is not a single source – or holy book – that defines what ALL Hindus believe, what problems might arise because of this?

Confusion, resulting in lack of unity within the society and among nations.

2. Imagine if there were many "gods", what problems might arise among those who followed them?

Again, lack of unity. Chaos would reign in the culture. Great divisions would exist from community-to-community.

3. Can a Hindu have an assurance of “heaven”? No What difference might that make in a person’s life?

Hope would be short-lived. There would be no reason to live a "righteous life". Little incentive to make a difference in the world.

4. What are the consequences of the caste system in Hinduism?

Poverty. Because the system offers little or no rewards or possibilities for advancement, it destroys personal initiative to work and apply one's talents and energies for one's own benefit or for others' assistance.

5. From the video and from your experience, what are the results/consequences of this worldview in the people and societies that have embraced it?

• Due to the caste system of the four set castes (which a member belongs to by birth, called “varnas”), Inter-varna mixing, is strongly disapproved; thus it is only appropriate for a Hindu to have a job suitable for their caste. Very little upward mobility is possible or allowed

- One quarter of the world's poor (400 million+) live in India [BBC Aug 04]
 - About 30 % of the population live on less than \$1 per day
-

- About 300 million in India live on less than 50 cents per day



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 3, Day 7.

Romans 1:22-23
Romans 1:28-29

The prophesy of Ishmael:
Genesis 16:11-12
Genesis 17:20-21
Genesis 25:12-18
Isaiah 53:6

Session 3: Day 8

How does the God of the Bible compare to all other “gods”?



Watch the part 2 beginning at the segment titled “Islam” (12min 53sec), and watch to the end. Take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

Islam

What Does Islam Say About God?

List the main points you believe answer each question.

1. Is he Ruler? Yes

Describe his manner of rulership.

- Tyrannical, the all-powerful and all-knowing creator, sustainer, ordainer, and judge of the universe.
- Insensitive
- Unloving

2. Is he Righteous? No Why?

- "Those who make war with Allah and his messenger will be killed or crucified, or have their hands and feet on alternate sides cut off, or will be expelled out of the land. (Surah 5:33).
- According to the Koran, his judgments are erratic and unjust. His command to behead the unbelievers
is barbaric and inhumane beyond measure



3. Is he Relational? No Why?

- The word or concept of love does not exist in the Koran
- Saying that he is closer than our jugular vein is not exactly comforting
- "He cannot be known, for he is beyond us" (the Koran)
 - Allah loves those who love him and serve him - sometimes, but he does not love unbelievers.
 - "Allah is merciful because he did not kill me or leave me in peril."
 - In contrast, Christian mercy is rooted in God's grace - His unmerited favor.

4. What have been the historical results of Islam in society regarding these 3 areas?

- Economics Poverty. Ignorance. Isolation. Lack of drive, initiative, and creativity among the majority.
- Personal Freedom Hemmed in by the Mullahs who rule by iron fists in Islamic nations.
- Hope of Heaven Never assured. Cannot be known until death.

What Does Buddhism Say About God?

List the main points you believe answer each question.

1. Is he Ruler? No Why?

- There is no god
- _____
- _____



2. **Is he Righteous?** No Why?

- The faith encourages personal works of "righteous actions and behavior" that
one must develop from within. But because there is no doctrine of sin that is accepted, it could only lead one
- to futility and discouragement. We all know that, as much as we may want to do right, we often don't
possess the character or the strength to do so on our own.

3. **Is he Relational?** No Why?

- There is no god; or – IF there is, he is unknowable and uninvolved
Buddhists do not believe "God created man in his own image"; but that Man has created "God" in his image.
- The individual, in effect, becomes his own god.
- The faith does encourage good works towards others

4. **What have been the historical results of Buddhism in society regarding these 3 areas?**

- Economics Poverty. Ignorance. Isolation. Lack of drive, initiative, and creativity among the majority.

- Personal Freedom Lack of upward mobility

Due to the poverty, they have a lack of

free choices they can make. Thomas Jefferson defined freedom as the ability to make choices.

- Hope of Heaven When "heaven"
consists of no consciousness and no desires,
and it cannot be attained except through countless

reincarnations (and even then, there are no assurances)

it seems pretty hopeless in the end.



What Does Hinduism Say About God?

List the main points you believe answer each question.



1. Is he Ruler? No Why?

- There are multiple "gods" to compete with each other
- Different sects have different gods. The Hindu "god" is complex & depends upon each individual & the tradition and philosophy followed
- _____

2. Is he Righteous? No Why?

- Because of the conflicts between sects, traditions, and gods, there is no single standard of right/wrong
- When certain castes receive preferred status over others, Hinduism personifies favoritism and injustice
- _____

3. Is he Relational? No Why?

- There is no single god to have a relationship with.
- When there is no unifying "bible" to define who their god is, and only tradition and personal philosophy remain to describe "god", how can one truly have a relationship with such an unknown deity?
- _____
- _____

4. What have been the historical results of Hinduism in society regarding these 3 areas?

- Economics One quarter of the world's poor (400 million+) live in India
 - About 30 % of the population live on less than \$1 per day
 - About 300 million in India live on less than 50 cents per day
- Personal Freedom Extremely limited due to the caste system, over-population, and illiteracy

- **Hope of Heaven** Basically there are two views of heaven and hell according to the Hindu scholars:
 1. One point of view suggests that there is no such place as hell or heaven, where you go after you die. Both heaven and hell are on this earth while you are living. Based on your past karmas you create your own hell and heaven in this life. If you are leading a miserable life, you are in hell. If you have all the amenities of life and have achieved inner peace, you are in heaven. and
 2. Another point of view refers to the Vedas, Upanishads, the Bhagvad Gita and the Puranas and suggests that heaven or hell is situated somewhere up there. The king of gods, Indra reigns in heaven and the Lord of death, Yama rules hell. <https://www.speakingtree.in/blog/the-hindu-concept-of-heaven-and-hell>

Final Question

Name at least 5 reasons why is it untrue and foolish to believe that all religions lead to the same God? (Personal responses) For example:

1. Reviewing the religions above shows that each religion is widely different from the others
2. The results that follow in the cultures that embrace each religion reveal great differences one to another
3. The differing view of the afterlife show that there is only true, confident hope in Christianity - not in others
4. The requirements of all other religions are based upon personal works. Christianity is based upon grace.
5. Christianity views man as made in the image of God, whereas all others place a low value on humanity.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 3, Day 8.

Genesis 1:1
Exodus 34:6-7b


Deuteronomy 6:4-5
John 14:6

References:

Islam: <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1267-mohammed-and-his-religion>

Buddhism: <https://evidencetobelieve.net/buddhism-vs-christianity/>

Hinduism: <https://www.biblicaltraining.org/library/christianity-hinduism/essentials-hinduism/timothy-tennent>



Please take the time to reflect and pray about what you learned and discussed so far. If you have questions, write them down to share during the next session.

